



The 2009 Writing Assessment

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Writing



Test Dates

- February 3, 2009 Writing Assessment
- February 4, 2009 only Make-up Day



Participation

Who is required to take the TCAP Writing Assessment?

- All fifth grade students
- All eighth grade students
- All eleventh grade students
- All Home School students in fifth grade



Participation

Do any students in these grade levels not participate in the Writing Assessment?

- Students in these grade levels that participate in the Portfolio Assessment
- ELL students who are enrolled for the first year in an American school



Test Administration Times

- Students in the fifth grade will have 35 minutes to respond to a narrative prompt.
- Students in the eighth grade will have 35 minutes to respond to an expository prompt.
- Students in the eleventh grade will have 35 minutes to respond to a persuasive prompt.



Student Demographic Coding

- All student demographic information must be filled out in #2 pencil.
- Completely fill in the circles under all of the columns that provide the personal information for the student:

last name	middle initial	birth date
first name	ethnic origin	gender



Student Unique Identification Number

- The student's Unique Identification Number is obtained from the EIS System.
- If the number is less than nine digits, fill in the empty spaces using leading zeros.
- Non-Public schools should place the same number used in the social security field. Private entities do not have EIS generated ID numbers.



Student Demographic Coding

- Fill out all school specific information.
- In the upper right hand corner, print the **teacher name**, **school system name** and the **school name** on the lines provided. Do not use abbreviations for the school name.
- Fill in the circles under the **system#**, **school #** and **non-public #**. Only private schools will have a non-public number.



Student Demographic Coding

- Above the state seal fill in the circle that identifies the student's assigned grade level and their membership status.
- To the left of the state seal be sure to indicate if the student took the test on the regular assessment date or on the make-up date.



Student Demographic Coding

- In the Other Programs field, Test Administrators should complete this section only for students who receive the following services:
 - A 504 Service Plan
 - Gifted (Do not include in Special Education)
 - Migrant
 - Home School



New Bubble

- In the Other Programs Box, there is a new bubble to code students identified as *Functionally Delayed*.
- Functionally Delayed is not an IDEA recognized category.
- Do **not** use the box entitled Special Education to identify Functionally Delayed students.



Functionally Delayed Accommodations

- Fill in the circle in the box entitled Special Accommodations to indicate the special accommodation used on the test.



Student Demographic Coding

- In the Title I field, only schools receiving Title I funds complete this information.
- In the Code A/B field, all schools must fill in the corresponding information for all students in the school.
- Fill in the appropriate ESL Services information for qualifying students.



Student Demographic Coding

- Indicate Braille or Large Print for students using a modified format test.
- All students receiving Special Education Services must have the number of hours served indicated in the Special Education field.
- Test Administrators must indicate the type of accommodation used in the Special Accommodations Box.



Student Demographic Coding Absent Students

- The absent circle must be marked only for students who are not present to take the test on the initial administration day or the following make-up day.
- If a student makes up the test, erase this circle completely.



Student Demographic Coding

Student Refusals

- Student Refusals are not to be coded in the absent circle.
- An answer document must be turned in with the scoreable materials under a Group Information Sheet.
- Page one of the answer document must have complete student demographic information. Pages three and four of the answer document will be blank.
- Refusals are not to be placed with Inactive Materials.



Brief Comments about the 2007 Writing Assessment Pilot Study

- What did the on-line portion of the Pilot Study Look Like?



On-line Participation in the 2007 Writing Assessment Pilot Study

Grades		Districts		Schools		Students	
5		29		31		393	
8		23		26		378	
11		15		16		280	



On-line School Qualifications

- Special hardware did not have to be installed for students to participate in the 2007 Writing Assessment On-line Pilot Study.
- School computers had to have internet access.
- An Internet Browser was required so that students could log onto the MI website.



Prior Keyboarding Exercise

- Before the on-line students began their writing sample, they encountered a brief keyboarding exercise.
- This exercise contained 76 words that contained 369 characters.
- Only 56 of the 1,051 on-line participants did not finish this exercise.



Key Boarding Accuracy

Grade Level	Above 85% Accuracy		Achieving 100% Accuracy	
5	353		22	
8	370		67	
11	280		78	



Technical Support

- On the day of the administration of the on-line Pilot Study, there were only 7 calls to an established Help-line.
- Two schools experienced power outages due to an electrical storm. Due to a prior system of automatic “saving”, student data was not lost.



General Survey Comments

- This group of students indicated that they seldom use computers to write, but they indicated a strong preference to take the TCAP Writing Assessment on-line rather than on paper.



General Survey Comments

- A high number of students participate in writing across the curriculum, but a low number of students work in peer groups to discuss and improve their writing.



Closing Observations

- More study is needed at this time to determine effective uses for on-line assessment projects in Tennessee.
- Possible uses for formative assessment and supplementary writing practices are potential options at this time.



?? Questions??

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